

FOSTER FAMILY CARE

Foster parents are individuals who agree to and meet all licensing regulations as set forth by the Division in order to provide a temporary home for children who have been removed from their families. The foster parents are considered team members along with CD staff, the parents from whom the child was removed, and professionals who have as a common goal establishing a plan for permanency and safety for the child. HB 1453 signed into law by then Governor Holden in August 2004 requires foster parents of a child or any pre-adoptive parent or relative providing care for a child to be notified of and given an opportunity to be heard in any permanency hearing or other review hearing to be held with respect to the child. It does not, however, require those persons to be made a party to the case solely on the basis of such notice and opportunity to be heard.

As of February 2005, the Division had 3,964 licensed foster family homes. Previous years reflect: 4,077 licensed homes in March 2000; 4,416 homes in April 2001 and 2002; and 4,386 homes in March 2003. Foster family homes are assessed and licensed by staff at the local level. As part of the licensing process, new foster parents are required to undergo a minimum of 27 hours of competency based pre-service training and assessment to help prepare them for the various aspects of foster parenting and help them understand the problems that foster children experience. In-service training is on going and at least 30 hours are required bi-annually. The foster parent training is provided at the local county level by CD staff, "Teaching Foster Parents", and/or professionals who are contracted for this purpose. Foster parents may also attend special training conferences or workshops that are provided periodically by CD and/or other community agencies.

Foster parents are given monthly financial payments designed to cover maintenance expenses for each child such as food, clothing, toiletries, etc. The current maintenance rates by age groups are:

Rate Table

<i>Age Category</i>	Monthly Rate	Yearly Clothing Allowance
0-5	\$227.00	\$150.00
6-12	\$277.00	\$200.00
13 and over	\$307.00	\$250.00

Please note: Foster parents may earn an additional \$100.00 per month per eligible child (eligible children are those in traditional, behavioral, and medical foster care) if they complete additional training.